

What is claimed is:

1. A cushioning conversion network, comprising a supervisory controller linked to a plurality of cushioning conversion machines which convert sheet-like stock material into a dunnage product, each machine including a controller for controlling the operation of the machine in accordance with instructions received from the supervisory controller.

2. A cushioning conversion network as set forth in claim 1 wherein the supervisory controller transfers dunnage product production responsibilities from a first cushioning conversion machine in the network to a second cushioning conversion machine in the network when the first cushioning conversion machine is unable to produce dunnage product.

3. A cushioning conversion network as set forth in claim 1 wherein the supervisory controller is resident in one of the plurality of cushioning conversion machines.

4. A cushioning conversion network, comprising a plurality of cushioning conversion machines which convert sheet-like stock material into a dunnage product, each machine including a controller for controlling the operation of the machine, the controller of each machine being in communication with the controller of at least one other machine for communication between the controllers.

5. A cushioning conversion network, comprising a supervisory controller linked to a plurality of cushioning conversion machines which convert sheet-like stock material into a dunnage product, the supervisory controller controlling the operation of each machine.